

National Bee-Keepers' Convention at Denver, Sept. 3-5, '02

# AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL



GEORGE W. YORK,  
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No. 34

WEEKLY



D. W. WORKING,  
Secretary of the Colorado Bee-Keepers' Association.—See page 532.



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**AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL**  
THE OLDEST BEE-PAPER  
IN AMERICA

42d YEAR.

CHICAGO, ILL., AUG. 21, 1902.

No. 34.

\* **Editorial Comments.** \*

**Formalin for Foul Brood.**—Editor Root is very skeptical about believing that formalin, or indeed any drug, may be successfully used in killing the spores of foul brood. But those Canadian professors say that beyond a doubt they have killed spores with formalin, and they seem to think it not so very difficult. Let us hope that Editor Root, rather than our more northern friends, is mistaken.

**European vs. American Conventions.**—Mr. C. P. Dadant has an article on another page contrasting the bee-keepers' conventions of continental Europe with those of America. No other man is more competent to write on this subject, for he has attended conventions on both sides of the Atlantic.

Undoubtedly the fact of greater distances in this country militates against great conventions here. The only way we can hope to gather a large crowd is to hold our meetings when low railroad rates are in force for some other and more important occasion. We have had the largest and best bee-keepers' conventions when taking advantage of the railroad rates granted on account of the meetings of the Grand Army of the Republic. This year the Denver convention will likely be well attended for the same reason—that of low rates.

And, then, another matter that may induce bee-keepers to "go again" may be that of having a jolly time rather than so much "shop talk." A convention should be as far removed as possible from being like sitting down and reading a bee-paper. This latter can be done at home, and at far less expense. The meeting and greeting of old-time as well as new-time apiarian friends should be one of the greatest incentives to attending any convention, and especially the meeting of the National.

If we may judge from the published program of the Denver convention, it will be a leader in the way of providing a variety of entertainment for those fortunate enough to be there. We hope that aside from the indoor sessions it will indeed be the best meeting ever held by the bee-keepers of this country.

We Americans have much to learn from our European brethren in many ways, and in no way more than in the convention line. Why not begin at Denver to strike out on this new line for our bee-keepers, and have such a good time that not only will all who attend this year be sure to attend next year (if alive and well), but cause those who remain at home this year to feel that they have missed about five years out of their lives by not being at the Denver convention? If Colorado bee-keepers can't succeed in doing that, they're not nearly up to the grade of their fine alfalfa honey. We are just "Aikin" to begin "Working"

up such a glorious convention here in Chicago in the fall as will simply "Harris" those Denverites into "Rauchfussing" around and putting up "the real thing" in the convention line in September.

However, we are willing that Denver shall be first. But look out for Chicago later on!

**Foundation and Foul Brood.**—H. W. Brice, in the Bee-Keepers' Record, insists that it is not safe to use for foundation wax from foul-broody combs, while all authorities in this country seem to agree that it is safe. Which is right?

**Legislation Against Foul Brood.**—Although no new thought upon the subject may be given, its great importance makes it advisable to keep it warm so long as the States that have proper laws to protect the interests of bee-keepers are so very few in number. It seems a little strange that so little should be said or done by bee-keepers in States without any legislation. Now and then a solitary voice is heard, then all is again silent.

Possibly the matter stands a little in this shape: Those bee-keepers who are especially suffering from foul brood because of the lack of legislation are somewhat inclined to be discouraged, and those who are yet safe from the scourge feel no personal need of any legislation. An earnest plea to this latter class may not be amiss.

Let us suppose that you are living in a part of the State where there is no disease near you. Why should you trouble yourself about legislation? But those who are in the most distant part of the State need your help to secure legislation, and you ought not to be so selfish that you will stand idly by and see them suffer without making any effort to help.

Neither are you so safe, perhaps, as you may think. The disease may be brought into your neighborhood at any time, and it will be a great deal better for you if there is legislation in advance of the appearance of the disease. With proper laws, if you learn that your neighbor has a diseased colony, you may take steps to secure the stamping out of the disease before any colony of your own is affected; whereas, if there is no law, you are utterly helpless against having the disease spread through all the colonies surrounding you, if indeed you can do anything to prevent its appearance in your own apiary.

The fact is, that every State that secures proper laws against the disease makes you that much safer, and it is of interest to the fraternity at large that every bee-keeper in the land should do his part toward securing legislation in his own State. The entire wiping out of the disease in California will make it safer for Maine, and *vice versa*.

In the article of Hon. J. M. Hambaugh, on page 406—which article may be worth a re-perusal—he takes the ground that all hives but those with movable combs should be outlawed. At first it might seem that such a thing would be arbitrary and unjust, and the box-hive man might say, "Isn't this a free country? And haven't I a right to



keep my own bees in any kind of a hive I please?" On the same principle one might say, "Haven't I a right to carry a pistol in my pocket if it's my own pistol and my own pocket? Haven't I a right to sell poison or whiskey to any one I please?" No, you haven't the right to do these and many other things that would be a menace to the public safety or a detriment to the public good. If you have a colony in a box-hive, and the disease starts in it, you can not determine whether there is any disease until the scourge has advanced to a severe stage. In other words, the inspector can not tell whether there is any disease present or not. You have no right so to jeopardize others.

There should be earnest action everywhere; organization and combined effort everywhere. It ought to be made a difficult thing for an ignorant, careless, or pig-headed bee-keeper to harbor the disease; and it ought to be made an easy thing for others to rid him of the disease, will he nill he. Shall there be such combined action everywhere, or shall it be confined to a few States?

## \* The Weekly Budget. \*

MR. THADDEUS SMITH, of Pelee Island, Ont., Canada, died on June 11, 1902. He wrote several articles for the American Bee Journal the past year.

DR. C. C. MILLER stopped off in Chicago over night on his way home from Winona Lake Assembly, in Indiana, where he gave a talk on "The Story of the Bees, or Secrets of the Hive." His own bees (some 200 colonies) are not telling a very good story this year, on account of the unfavorable season. He fears having to feed them for winter stores.

SPECIAL RATES TO DENVER.—Pres. Hutchinson sends us the following for publication:

Special rates on the railroads were expected all over the United States when the National Letter Carriers' Association held their annual convention in Denver, but I can not learn, by the most persistent correspondence, that any rate has been made for the far West. If there is any one going from any part of the country, and there are no reduced rates given from his part of the country, let him write to me, and if any rates are eventually secured, I will at once write to him.

W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

LATER.—I have just received notice from the Santa Fe Railroad that they will sell tickets from California to Denver and return at the rate of \$55.00, for accredited delegates of the National convention of bee-keepers. Date of sale is Aug. 28, and final limit 60 days.

W. Z. H.

Flint, Mich.

MR. D. W. WORKING, whose phiz decorates the front page of this issue of the American Bee Journal, sent the following sketch with the photograph, written "By Himself":

I was born in Belle Plaine Township, Scott Co., Minn., if I may trust the records. In my short career, I have lived in three Minnesota counties, one county in Missouri, five in Kansas, one in Nebraska, and three in Colorado. My first experience with honey-bees was in Minnesota, where my grandfather kept a few colonies that knew how to sting as well as to make honey. I was stung. My latest experience with the little honey-makers has been in Colorado. My own bees sting and make honey, too. They have done neither this year; but it isn't my fault.

I have written this sketch at the earnest and frequently repeated request of Editor York, who has also asked me for a photograph of myself. I have had the picture made es-

pecially for use in connection with the coming convention of the National Bee-Keepers' Association; it flatters me, though Brother York's engraving may not. I confess that I don't like to write this stuff. It is all true enough, no doubt; but somehow my modesty and my vanity both protest that some one else ought to have written me up. Probably no honest man could be persuaded to do it.

P. S.—If you are coming to the big Denver convention, I wish you would let me know at once. I want to tell our daily papers about the crowds of bee-keepers who are going to be with us on that occasion. We are to have a real poet at our banquet. I don't mean York, or Secor, or Myself.

Box 432, Denver, Colo.

D. W. WORKING.

A BEE-KEEPERS' PICNIC.—Mr. F. Greiner, of Ontario Co., N. Y., wrote us Aug. 7:

"We had a bee-keepers' picnic Aug. 1, along the shores of Canandaigua Lake. We had a good time. The most of our bee-keepers have harvested a fair honey crop."

So far as we know, this is the only bee-keepers' picnic in the United States. It's a good idea. The only trouble is, that many who would like to join in an affair of that kind live too far away.

A DELUGE OF ORDERS.—It seems the American Bee Journal is a pretty good advertising medium, if we may judge by the following:

DEAR BRO. YORK:—Please take my advertisement out of the American Bee Journal. It has caused such a "deluge" of orders that I am now three weeks behind orders, instead of being able to send by "return mail," as that "little, lying old man" is telling your readers.

If this is any criterion to go by, the American Bee Journal is the best advertising medium out.

Hastily,

G. M. DOOLITTLE.

And yet there are a lot of breeders of good queens who do not have their advertisements in the American Bee Journal. Some seem to think that our advertising rates are too high. But when returns are compared with the amount invested, we think there will be no cause to complain, that is, provided the prices of queens or goods offered are reasonable, and that all comes up to the claims made by the advertiser.

"IMPORTED" A "SUPERIOR QUEEN."—A Wisconsin bachelor, who, of course, is no longer "queenless," sends us the following:

I would say to "Iowa," who asks, "Why are there so many bachelor bee-keepers?" that I was one for a good many years, and in the summer season was too busy with bees and bee-queens to think of much else, but finally devoted one winter (while my bees were in the cellar) to a more worthy enterprise, and the next spring I was no longer a bachelor, for I had found and imported a "queen" of "superior stock."

B. T. D.

[Now, that's good. Only don't let any lonesome bachelor get discouraged if he should not be able to import his "queen." The home-bred ones are just as likely to be of the "superior stock" as the best imported. We have been rather observing "along this line," and have also found, from personal experience as well, that, should the prospective home queen not be of such tender years, it is no perceptible detriment, so far as we have been able to determine. (Of course, it wouldn't do for a certain "queen" to see this copy of the American Bee Journal, or a certain "old drone" might wish he hadn't buzzed so loud.)—Ed.]

DR. ANGELO DUBINI, one of the most prominent bee-keepers of all Europe, who lived in Italy, passed away recently, at the age of 89, the result of a fall in his house. Editor Bertrand says of him:

He had been for about 38 years attached to the Grand Hospital of Milan; and after a brilliant and useful medical career, in the course of which he published several impor-

tant works which established his reputation, he retired at the age of 65 years. But he had too much activity of spirit to remain idle. An amateur experimenter with bees, he devoted his robust old age to the advancement of apiculture.

He became, in 1868, one of the founders of *L'Apicoltore*, and worked for that journal assiduously till his death. Understanding several languages, he kept abreast with apicultural literature, and published monthly, under the name of *Spigolature Apistiche*, an analytical review of foreign journals, which was greatly appreciated, as were all the rest of his contributions to the journal. He left a very complete treatise, "The Bee and Its Management," which has gone through two editions.

The loss of this gifted man and untiring worker, one of vast erudition which he devoted to the service of others, will be keenly felt in Italy, and by all outside of Italy, who, like ourselves, have had the privilege of knowing personally the man, or who have been able to appreciate his works.

## Contributed Articles.

### Bee-Keepers' Associations and Conventions.

BY C. P. DADANT.

I have often wondered at the greater success of the bee-keepers' associations in Europe than in this country, and especially at the greater attendance at conventions, whether local or national, and I have tried to explain the thing in several ways. We feel ahead of the Old World bee-keepers in practice and pecuniary success in bee-culture, but it is only accidentally that we can have a bee-keepers' meeting that is well attended; and whether our associations are local or represent entire States, we can readily see that it is only exceptional that the bee-keeper belongs to them or attends them. The greater distances, also the higher railroad fares, in this part of the world, would partly explain the lack of attendance; but money is more plentiful here, and our citizens spend a dollar as easily as a European spends a franc. So this is not the whole explanation.

I have been reading, lately, some of the programs and reports of meetings, and it strikes me that there is a congeniality and unconventionality about *their* meetings which are absent from many of ours. It seems to me that we are too stiff, too matter-of-fact; we are too fond of parliamentary rules, essays, and addresses; we do not put enough free, neighborly intercourse into our meetings. We do too much bee-keeping and do not mix in enough pleasant social intercourse, which enables the members to get acquainted.

Let me read to you the program of the Societe Romande d'Apiculture, of Switzerland, which was to meet May 12 and 13, as I find it in the *Revue Internationale*:

Official meeting at 10 o'clock, a.m.

At 12:30, dinner at Hotel de l'Ange; price, 40 cents.

At 2:15, departure in carriages (20 cents) to visit the apiaries of Messrs. Sautter and Odier.

At 5:45, lunch at the apiary of LaRippe.

Return to Nyon in the evening, unconventional meeting.

Rooms at the Hotel de l'Ange, 30 cents; breakfast, 20 cents.

The 13th, at 7:15, if the weather is good, excursion to the Jura mountains. Upon the return, visit and lunch with Mr. Bertrand.

In the evening, adjournment.

Now for the report of the meeting of Feb. 17: It appears that this Romande Society is divided into sections, each section being expected to make regular reports of the condition of the bees, and in each section some bee-keepers are provided with scales at the expense of the Society and are expected to make monthly reports of the weights of hives, with meteorological observations, and all remarks that may be of interest to the apiarian public. At this meet-

ing in February, one apiarist is reported as failing to make his reports regularly, and it is decided to take away his scale and give it to some one who will be more prompt. It appears also from the reports that the Romande Association is a member of the Federation of Agricultural Associations of Switzerland and that this latter national body allows the Romande a certain sum each year for experiments, etc., requiring a condensed annual report.

The statement of the treasurer shows that the Association is in debt, but that the receipts for 1901 have been 1656 francs. It appears also from the report that the annual membership fee is only one franc—20 cents.

We see, also, that the Association appoints a member each year to visit apiaries, give instructions or suggestions, and deliver lectures when desired.

All the foregoing, although showing that there is more social intercourse among the members of an European Association than in this country, also shows that more pains are taken to diffuse information in different ways. But the important point that I wish to notice is the more steady condition and better attendance at these local meetings than is usually found in the United States. The Germans are, if anything, still more enthusiastic in their meetings, and their National Congresses are attended by hundreds upon hundreds of jovial and happy members.

If our apiarists will look back upon our experience in bee-keepers' associations in this country, they will see that we have been successful in proportion as we have made our meetings attractive, not only by some practical discussions in the meeting, but also by social and familiar intercourse between members, visits to apiaries, exhibitions, banquets, and, in fact, by such enjoyable performances as would make the absent member wish that he had been there, when he reads the report.

I know that some of my friends will say, as I have heard them say: "I do not care for all this visiting; what I want is bee-knowledge, and I want to put in ten solid hours each day, to get all the information I can." This is well and good if everybody thought as he does, but for ten who feel thus, there are hundreds who want a little pleasure mixed in with their attendance at a convention. Besides, some of you have probably experienced what I did. I have learned more, at conventions, from a private talk with an individual whom I had singled out of the mass, than I have learned from discussions where we often hear a man make a long talk about something that you and I learned perhaps long before he did.

In my opinion, Mr. Editor, the Chicago meeting last fall, which was so pleasant, derived as much of its popularity from the humble banquet in the evening, as from any and all of its discussions.

Hancock Co., Ill.



### No. 2.—How to Rear the Best Queen-Bees.

BY HENRY ALLEY.

(Continued from page 519.)

I have looked over Dr. Gallup's article on page 470. They are good articles, interesting, and to the point. I want to take up a few points in one of Dr. Gallup's article. He says:

"When I first began the nucleus plan I reared them small, inferior, and, as Mr. Benedict said, as black as crows, but I jumped out of that boat long ago." I never reared queens by any nucleus plan, always using the strongest colonies in my apiary for that purpose. But I want to tell Dr. Gallup, and all others, that the best queens I ever saw were reared in a small box 5x5x6 inches, and on 4 small combs. Not only do I make the above assertion, but I now have a dozen queens in my apiary that were so reared. Now



these boxes have been used by me more than 30 years. I do not rear queens in them, but merely use them for fertilizing-hives. I have always found these small hives more convenient, and easy to manipulate, and superior in every way to full-size frames. "Well," some one says, "how came you with those fine queens if you didn't rear them in those little hives?"

When the young queens have filled their little combs with brood, they are sent out to a customer. In some cases I fail to introduce queens to them, or they are in some way lost, and the result is the bees rear several queens. Although none of these hives contains over one pint of bees, they never fail to rear the best queens that are produced by any method used for rearing queens. Now, the "proof of the pudding is in eating it," and I want to say here that I will mail Dr. Gallup, or any other man of his standing, several queens that were reared in these small boxes, and if these queens can be equalled by queens reared at swarming-time I am ready to "throw up the sponge," and drop this question. Conditions, and not circumstances, are what produce good queens.

Taking a hint from the above experience, I am now rearing all my queens by a method that has never appeared in print.

The poorest queens I ever saw were reared at swarming-time, and as Dr. Gallup says, "I jumped out of that boat long ago." I don't want any such queens. I can rear better ones. Why, a queen that was reared in the above way (nucleus) was kept in my apiary 4 years and 2 months, and she was the mother of more than 400,000 bees.

A few years ago, as many readers will remember, I had a hundred-dollar queen. Thousands of the readers of this Journal had received queens from this particular queen, and nearly every customer sent me a testimonial of the queens received.

This hundred-dollar queen was a come-by-chance, and reared in one of the little hives described above. I now have several queens that are promising duplicates of the hundred-dollar queen.

I don't believe queen-rearing begins to be understood. When it is, no queens will be reared in colonies that have fertile queens. First-class queens cannot be reared by that process, and the sooner queen-breeders give it up the better the queens will be. 'Tis unnatural, unscientific, and not an up-to-date method.

I sometimes purchase a queen or two to see what some people are rearing for queens. In all my experience in this line I never have as yet gotten a queen that was worth the two-cent postage stamp that was on the cage. Last season I paid a man \$8.00 for two queens. One of them was half fair; and the other was worthless.

Experiment, gentlemen, and get down to a method for rearing queens that will beat Nature out of sight. It can be done. It has been done. My experience in rearing queens over the brood-nest has been that more than half of the queens so reared are worthless; and out of one lot of 35 queen-cells only 2 queens appeared to be worth saving. Other people claim that they can rear good queens in this way. Why can't I? My colonies are as strong, and I feed to stimulate as much as anybody. I had to give up the system several years ago.

I rather like this queen-rearing subject. I have given nearly 40 years of my life to rearing queens, and I shall probably continue in this business as long as I am on earth.

Queens whose colonies fill 100 one-pound sections cannot be considered cheap queens.

Finally, I have shown that a few bees, in a small hive, without a stimulant of any kind, save for the want and necessity of a queen, will produce much better queens than

can be produced under the most favorable conditions. One thing is peculiar with the small colony, and that is, I have found the queens they rear are always good—first-class in all respects.

Dr. Gallup is good authority on almost any subject connected with bees, but I believe that I have had very much more experience in this line than he has, or, in fact, any other man living.

Essex Co., Mass.



## No. 5.—Improving the Races of Bees—Queen Pointers.

BY ADRIAN GETAZ.

(Continued from page 518.)

### INTRODUCING QUEENS.

You don't want any nuclei. Nuclei are a necessary evil with which the professional queen-breeders have to put up to get their queens mated. The apiarist rearing only his own queens can just as well have them mated in the colonies which they occupy.

One or two days after the old queen has been removed, the virgin queen will be accepted, and could be as well turned in loose. Still it is safer to introduce her caged, and release her the following day.

The trouble will come later, if it does come. If there is any unsealed brood the bees may start queen-cells, and, when they are ready to seal, kill the virgin queen. At least they have done it a few times for me; and since then I never release the virgin until all the brood is sealed. Needless to say that the queen-cells which may be there are removed.

Under such circumstances, a laying queen would go out with a swarm. Why should a virgin queen be killed? When the queen-cells are ready to seal, the queen, whether virgin or laying, will try to destroy them. The bees on the other hand, will try to protect the cells against the attack of the queen.

Now, bees have a great respect for a laying queen and will avoid hurting her. But they may not be so particular about a virgin; and she may get worsted in the scuffle. That would be my explanation.

### TO PREVENT SWARMING.

In working for comb honey, it is not possible to avoid swarming entirely. If swarming is allowed, both the swarm and the parent colony are too weak to do much good in the majority of localities. The question comes to keep all together. Some re-queen throughout; and where the majority of the colonies are expected to swarm, it is probably the best. If not, I would treat only those that do swarm.

In the first place, the old queen must be removed or caged as soon as possible. Otherwise there would be a daily swarming and no work done. Furthermore, as long as there are eggs and larvæ present the bees will construct queen-cells as fast as you destroy them. So it is imperative that the egg-laying is stopped as soon as possible.

Later on you can release the old queen, if she is caged, or introduce another one, or let the bees have one from their own queen-cells.

The advice to destroy all queen-cells but one is not good. Cage several of the cells and pick out the best-looking of the queens after they have emerged. I am partial to color, and also to a long and well-shaped abdomen, taking for granted that such a one contains the best developed generative organs.

Here is the chief point, and the key to success: Be sure that the bees are at least four days without unsealed brood. During these days the bees lose their disposition to

build queen-cells. How it is, I do not know. But I suppose that the majority of the nurses take to the field-work, and that when the egg-laying is resumed, those remaining have all they can do to feed the young brood, and have no time to fool away constructing queen-cells.

#### CATCHING AND CARRYING QUEENS.

A trick of my own to catch a queen is to throw a cup of water on her, whether she is on a comb or in a queen-trap, or before an entrance-guard.

I frequently carry queens from one apiary to another simply by putting them in the cages described above, and the cages in my pocket. A few hours of fasting does not hurt them.

#### FINDING THE QUEENS.

Perhaps the most disagreeable part of the operation is to find the queen to be replaced. After trying nearly all the methods of which I read, and almost all those I could think of, I finally settled on the following:

Smoke the colony; take out the combs as rapidly as possible, putting them into a comb-basket. Look into the hive; the queen may be on the walls or on the floor. As there are but few bees left she can easily be seen if there. Cover the hive, closing also the entrance. Now shake the bees from the combs on a sheet or some boards two or three feet away from the entrance, replacing the combs in the basket. Cover the basket. Now, uncover the entrance of the hive (not the top), put on an entrance-guard, and start the bees in. You will see the queen readily if she is among them. If not, you will find her on the combs. Do not uncover the hive and return the combs until the queen is found.

Some details need a few more explanations. Do not smoke the bees more than necessary, yet enough so there will be no danger of having to do it again. Smoke first at the entrance, not much, or you might drive the queen in the super or on the under side of the cover. Then smoke from above, not too much, either, chiefly between the combs and the walls of the hive. Then again a little at the entrance so as to drive the queen back on the combs, if she happens to be on the floor of the hive. If supers are on, it is well to first smoke through them, as the queen might be in the sections. The whole is done in little time. The object is to drive the queen among the combs or rather on the combs, instead of driving her off the combs and perhaps clear out of the hive.

It is not necessary to shake off the bees clean from the combs; only enough so the queen can easily be seen. A virgin queen will be almost always found on the combs; a laying queen being heavy with eggs will, on the other hand, fall easily from the combs.

In looking over the combs watch especially the space between the comb and the end-bars and bottom-bar. Sometimes the queen is near the bottom opposite you, and when you turn the comb to look on the other side she passes under and is on the "other side, too." I suppose she does that to avoid the sun or the light, as the apiarist inspecting a comb invariably turns it so the light strikes it.

The covering of the hive is to prevent the shaken bees from climbing in (queen and all) before the operator is ready. It also prevents a virgin queen from alighting unbeknown to the apiarist. Virgin queens do often take wing and come back a few minutes later.

If there are some queen-cells on the comb that are to be saved, they should be cut off and caged before shaking, otherwise their occupants might be injured. Often, when ripe cells are on the comb, a number of virgins emerge while the combs are in the basket. Be sure to get them all.

In taking the combs out of the hive, I take one or two

on one side, and then begin on the other side. This still diminishes the chances of leaving the queen on the walls of the hive.

#### QUEEN-TRAPS.

When the apiarist is not present all the time during the swarming season, the best is to have the queen-traps attached to the hives. Then if a swarm comes out during his absence the queen will be caught in the trap, and he then knows which colonies have swarmed, and saves his swarm.

That is all right so far as the saving of the swarms is concerned, but the queens do not remain in the traps. In the course of a few hours they invariably succeed in getting back through the cones. The drones are not quite so smart. Still, a number of them do go back. There is room right here for improvement.

As originally constructed the queen-traps (and entrance-guards) are a considerable help to the bees against robbers. But the present traps are just the reverse. The robbers learn to get in, and come out through the upper story while the home bees are vainly watching in front of the lower entrance. This should also be corrected.

#### LONGEVITY OF BEES.

Some writers have lately insisted on having strains of long-lived bees. I do not see the point. Bees in the working season do not die of old age, but from accidents and actual wearing out of the body, especially of the wings. If you look at those which leave the hive to die, you will almost invariably see them with ragged wings, unable to fly any more. But for the accidents and wearing out, the workers might live perhaps as long as the queens.

It has been said also that the rearing of brood is what shortens the life of the bees the most. I just don't believe it. It is true that bees die faster when the most brood is reared. But the bees rear brood when they gather nectar. And it is the gathering, with its exposure to accident and wearing out, that kills the bees. Knox Co., Tenn.



### Working for Beeswax in Australia.

In Australia, with honey at a very low price, and with some kinds of honey not readily marketable, there is live interest in the question whether it may be a profitable thing to work chiefly for wax, and the matter has been discussed no little. Opinions vary greatly. R. Beuhne expresses himself thus in the Australian Bee-Bulletin:

The editor of the Australian Bee-Keeper thinks that 13 pounds of honey (the amount which, according to Cowan and Simmins, is necessary) is an excessively high estimate.

In my opinion it is a very low one, and I have never been able to get below 20 in my wholesale attempts some years ago to convert inferior honey into wax; notwithstanding that the attempts were made under the most favorable conditions of strength of colonies and of temperature, and a dogged determination on my part to succeed, I finally gave it up and got rid of the inferior honey by shifting away from it.

Unless we feed back the honey, which is a ruinous proceeding, we can not get more than one pound of wax to every 25 pounds of honey in running bees for wax. Box-hives produce as high as 1 to 20, when they have been allowed to become choked up, resulting in endless swarming.

The amount of wax asserted to be wasted when bees have no opportunity to build combs is greatly over-estimated. Has any one ever found a half-ounce on the bottom-board of a hive in which a swarm was hived on sheets or combs? Let it be wasted; it is paid for many times over by the honey stored if combs are given, and after a few days it will take all the wax they produce for sealing cells.

"Loyalstone," on the other hand, considers the cost in honey only about a fifth as much. His plan of procedure



will be of interest to any who may be situated so as to have practical interest in the matter. He says in the same journal:

I have not tried the method on a large scale, because my locality is not suited for it; but I have tried it year after year for four years, on various colonies of bees, and have always had the same return of wax in ratio to the amount of honey produced. You will notice that it takes (according to my estimation) about 5 1-20 pounds of honey to produce one pound of wax. Only one kind of hive in my opinion is suitable for wax-production, and that is the "Long Ideal," of 25 frames—20 would do but 25 frames are better. I use the ordinary Root-Hoffman standard frame. The "long ideal" gives the space required for clustering room, a thing absolutely necessary for wax-production. The clustering-room is too cramped in 8 or 10 frame hives. I have all frames with a small stick across center, in place of wire. At extracting time I take out all frames containing honey, extract the honey, then cut out all comb save about one inch attached to top-bar for starter. To describe it better, I will take a case of one hive, "long ideal," 20 frames.

I have to fit a queen-excluder to this hive, which I use the first time I open the hive to extract. I find all the brood-comb, place it together at the front of the hive and place a queen-excluder behind them to prevent the queen from getting to the back. Should there be more than 8 frames of brood in the hive, I place the oldest of them behind the excluder. I keep the hive this way till the approach of winter, when I withdraw the excluder till next season. Occasionally I remove two frames from the brood-chamber, replacing with empty ones from the back.

At first extracting I take, say 10 frames, and cut out all combs, leaving a starter on each and replacing frames in the hive. On the top of this hive I have a kind of super 3 inches deep with canvas cloth on the bottom. After replacing frames I place this super on top and pour into it two-thirds of the honey extracted from the frames, place the lid on top and the bees are forced to consume the honey as it comes through the cloth, and commence comb-building.

At the end of 4 days I open up the hive again and find combs built again, with a fair amount of fresh honey in them; I go through the same process, extracting the honey, cutting out the comb, and returning to the hive, this time returning all honey extracted, together with the one-third left from last extracting, to be sucked through the canvas at the bottom of the super.

After the second process, I generally wait from 5 to 7 days, according to the weather, and again proceed as before, giving back all honey extracted each time to the end of the season. You will notice I always leave two frames at the back. This is to keep the bees in a contented frame of mind. It seems to upset them a lot if the whole of the frames are cleared from the back each time.

After extracting the honey I run it into a watering-can with the nose off, and after replacing frames I place super on, pour the honey in and replace close-fitting cover.

I have tried this experiment with 10-frame two-story hives, queen-excluder between, but with little success, as I could not feed sufficient honey through the super. The extra weight of honey forced it through the canvas too quickly, and the bees could not get sufficient clustering-room without over-crowding one another; in fact, any other hives but the "long ideal" proved failures for wax-production. As I said before, I have experimented on this plan on various colonies of bees, and find the return of wax is 1 pound for every 5 1-20 pounds of honey returned to the hive.

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## Questions and Answers.

CONDUCTED BY

DR. C. C. MILLER, Marengo, Ill.

(The Questions may be mailed to the Bee Journal office, or to Dr. Miller direct, when he will answer them here. Please do not ask the Doctor to send answers by mail.—EDITOR.)

### Likely Robber-Bees.

I would like to know the meaning of these actions of a colony of bees: The bees come from the hive with their feet locked, and struggle to get apart, and when they finally get separated one goes into the hive and the other flies away. The bees seem to be working all right.

MASSACHUSETTS.

ANSWER.—A foreign bee has probably made an entrance into the hive to steal some honey and has been nabbed by one of the sentinels. Struggling to get loose, the robber works toward the outside, and quickly flies away as soon as loose.

### Some Swarming Difficulties.

On page 488, I read with much interest the swarming difficulties of "Illinois," which he says would knock into a cocked hat all theories he could find in two bee-books. But I think I have just had an experience with one of my colonies which will "go him one better."

On July 22, the first or prime swarm issued, and was duly hived, but after being hived about an hour came out again and left. The next swarm issued on July 27, but it returned to the parent colony after a short time, and before properly settling (2 days later, July 29) another, the third, swarm issued, but the queen had been caught in an Alley queen-trap, and queen and bees were properly hived and went to work all right. The next day (July 30) the fourth swarm issued, but we again caught the queen and destroyed her, the bees returning to the hive. The next, and fifth swarm came forth August 1, and again the queen was trapped, and bees returned to hive as before. I thought this was quite enough swarming for one colony, but while I was standing in front of the same colony this morning (August 3), and thinking of the trouble they had caused us, another swarm, the sixth one, came forth. I put the queen-trap in front of the hive just in time to catch this queen also, and killed her, thinking the bees would soon return, but as they did not seem inclined, I cut them down from the tree in which they had settled, and mixed them with the swarm hived on July 29. Everything seems all right now, and I hope they will not swarm any more. This one colony swarmed 6 times in 13 days, and 4 queens were caught in the trap and killed. The question I would like to have answered is this:

Did I do the proper thing in this difficulty? and what may be the cause of so much swarming? I may add that the weather has been warm and clear during this time.

MISSOURI.

ANSWER.—July 27 a swarm issued and returned, leaving the colony as strong as before, and when the bees returned July 30 and August 1 it was practically the same as if no swarm had issued, reducing the number of after-swarms to two, not by any means a large number. Put a queen-excluder under a hive before the colony swarms, and the bees may swarm out a dozen times, first a number of times with the old queen in the hive, then more times after a young queen has emerged. If you had left the bees entirely alone, there would hardly have been so many attempts at swarming; or if you had hived them each time there would not have been so many issues. If you had returned the swarms without killing the queens you might have done better, for the colony was left unreduced in strength, and so long as two queen-cells were left in the hive the bees would continue to swarm. Instead of returning the swarm to the mother colony, if you had added the swarm July 30 to



the one hived July 29, it is likely there would have been no further swarming. Better still, if you had put the swarm on the old stand July 29, putting the old hive on a new stand, that would likely have prevented further swarming.

### Rearing Long-Lived Queens.

1. Are queens reared in full colonies over an excluder, from larvae not over 3 days old, reared either by the Doolittle cell-cup plan or by the Alley plan—are queens reared thus inferior to queens reared under the natural impulse of the bees, as by swarming or supersedure?

2. If so, are they inferior only as to longevity, or does it also make them inferior in prolificness?

I have read with considerable interest the articles from Dr. Gallup, as appearing in the Bee Journal, and, although I would rather that the Doctor had been seriously mistaken in his observations, than if he were not, yet the important part of the thing is to know whether we are really rearing queens by the aforesaid plans that will not give us the amount of long-lived workers as will those naturally reared by the bees.

ILLINOIS.

ANSWERS.—1. They may be just as good. They may also be inferior. To be just as good, conditions as to strength of colony, yield of honey, and other things should be all right.

2. When they are inferior they are likely to be inferior in both respects.

If Dr. Gallup is right in saying that queens reared by the Doolittle plan or by any other plan than by swarming or superseding are necessarily inferior, then Mr. Doolittle is either ignorant or dishonest. It is easier for me to believe that Dr. Gallup is utterly wrong than to believe that Mr. Doolittle is either a fool or a fraud. Neither does Mr. Doolittle stand alone, for a large number of others that I believe are intelligent and honest stand with him.

### Bees Getting Black and Cross.

What is the cause of our bees getting black and cross. When I first got them, and for 3 years, I did not see any black bees, and now more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of them are blacks, when they were all golden Italian, and all the bees here came from the bees I brought. There were no bees in the woods here.

MINNESOTA.

ANSWER.—It must be the working in of black blood. Your young queens might meet drones from colonies a long way off, and it would be difficult for you to be certain there were no other bees within a radius of five miles.

As to the cross bees, it is quite likely that if you observe carefully you will find that all your colonies are far from being alike. It may be that a single colony furnishes most of the culprits. If so, kill the queen of that colony and give them a queen of better stock.

### Diseased Brood—Feeding and Moving Bees.

1. I have another nut for you to crack, and it is a serious one this time, I think. I have 7 colonies in box-hives about 16 miles from here. Last April, the men that kept them hived a fine swarm in a 10-frame hive, on 1-inch starters. They filled the hive full of comb, and have a lot of honey. They had a good-looking queen, a few old bees, a little brood sealed, and a little not sealed; a few eggs in worker and drone cells. The most or all that was sealed, and part of the unsealed, was dead. The dead ones are a little dark, and very tough, but not ropy; they smell a little sour, but not much odor at all. The other two frame-hives are all right, and the box-hive seems to be, too. They are in the hot sun; it has been from 100 to 108 degrees in the shade for the past 6 weeks. Do you think it is either foul or black brood? No such disease has ever been here.

2. If it is either foul or black brood they must have caught it by using comb foundation. What do you think about it?

3. If not black or foul brood, what do you think it is?

4. If I send a sample to Dr. Howard, how large a piece, and how should I send it?

5. Would it be safe to ship a few colonies about 500 or 600 miles?

6. If so, would early frost be the best time to do so?

7. I expect, on account of very dry, hot weather, to have to feed some. Will it be best to feed before or after I move them.

8. Would it do to put one hive on top of the other in the car? If so, ought I to nail strips to hold them together?

ANSWERS.—1. I doubt it being either.

2. It is pretty generally agreed in this country that foundation will not carry the disease, and there are other ways by which it may be carried.

3. I don't know.

4. Send a piece two inches square in a tin or wooden box. Of course, the shape and size is not very important.

5. They have been shipped farther than that.

6. Then or a little later would be a good time.

7. The combs will be lighter and less likely to break down if you do not feed till after moving. But if you move before feeding you must move early enough so that it will not be too cold to feed afterward.

8. It will be all right to put one on top of another providing you manage to give air enough. They should be fastened firmly in some way so they cannot move about. Strips would be all right.

### Robber-Bees—Uniting Bees—Kingbirds.

I have just purchased 3 colonies of bees in box-hives, which I will number 4, 5, 6, respectively, according to their size. I also have two colonies in a weak condition, Nos. 2 and 3. After getting the box-hives home I placed box 4 on top of a 10-frame empty hive; box 5, which is quite strong, on a stand a few feet to one side; and box 6, a rather small colony, I attempted to transfer by the Heddon short method, but in spite of all the pounding with a hammer and smoking I could do, the bees refused to leave the box. Finally I ripped open the box, and the bees went in the air. Finding mostly empty combs, and brood in the combs with the box, I went to hive No. 3 to get a frame of honey, and on my return the bees from the transferred box were going into box 4, making a great swarm. I immediately looked for the queen of box 6, and after searching half an hour found her on a post near hive 3, having been carried there on my person when I got the frame of honey. I placed the queen on the brood in the new hive, but there were scarcely a hundred bees within.

To-day the big colony 4, busied itself by robbing hives 2, 3 and 6; these colonies were so weak in numbers, and the robbers were so plentiful, that there was no fighting. The robbers also hung in the entrance and unburdened each home-coming bee of her load of honey and pollen. On opening the hives I found what looked like a good-sized colony, so I closed the entrances of hives 2, 3 and 6, carrying them into the middle of a potato-field, where I left them to hum until you can tell me what to do with them.

Hives 2 and 3 have each an old queen, while number 6 has a nice, young queen.

1. So far there has been no fighting. Do you think the robbers, that are inclosed in these hives, will harm the queen?

2. Will they unite with the other bees after being shut up with them?

3. How long can I safely keep them locked up?

4. If I feed sugar-water with a Boardman entrance-feeder at night, will that help to make them stay?

5. Would you advise me to unite the 3 colonies now, leaving them the young queen? or let them drag until fall, when I can secure bees from box-hives that the farmers are going to kill for the honey in them?

6. If I unite the 3 colonies, will that be a good time to introduce an Italian queen? or would it be better to wait until fall, when I add the bees from the farmers' box-hives?

7. There are a happy pair of kingbirds in our orchard that eat a good many of my bees; they are building a nest of grass and cobwebs. Do you think they could materially reduce the number of workers in a medium-sized colony of

bees? Birds are my friends and I would not harm them willingly. My text-book says but little of them.

ILLINOIS.

ANSWERS.—1. They may and they may not. If they do not molest her at first, they will not do so after being shut in for a time.

2. Yes.

3. That depends. If there is no danger of smothering or starvation they might be shut in for two or three weeks, but not without loss.

4. Hardly.

5. Hard to tell; perhaps it would be as safe to unite them now; but if you can keep them from being robbed out, they might be left separate, providing each has a queen.

7. Some think kingbirds do little or no harm, while others think they weaken a colony rapidly. Perhaps both are right, for they may not be the same at all times and in all places. By watching closely you can give a pretty good guess whether they are doing serious harm.

It looks probable that you operated at a time when little or no honey was coming in, and possibly were a little careless as to starting robbing. Look out for that in the future.

### Swarming Questions—Scraping Sections.

1. I find a colony of black bees preparing to swarm. I cage the queen, and cut out all the queen-cells at two different times, the last cutting being about 10 days after caging the queen. The queen is then released. A month or so later, upon opening the hive, I find one large queen-cell from which a queen has emerged (being open at the end, with flap still attached), also eggs all through the hive, and a number of swarming-cells with eggs laid in them. Now if the old queen is good enough to swarm with, why did they rear a young one?

2. Upon examining a colony of bees and finding, we will say, 3 or 4 queen-cells in process of construction, how am I to tell whether it is a case of swarming, or supersedure?

3. I have had a swarm this year from a colony in which the queen was reared this season. Upon examination I find a number of colonies with this year's queens reared in hives now occupied preparing to swarm. Isn't it an unusual occurrence? I believe in one of your answers you stated that such *did not* happen.

4. What is the easiest and best way to clean or scrape sections after being taken from the bees, so as to prepare them for market.

NEW YORK.

ANSWERS.—1. I don't know. The case is a very exceptional one. Years ago I treated a great many swarms in the way you mention (cutting out cells twice and releasing the queen after 10 days caging), only I caged the queen *after* the colony had swarmed, and never did a colony swarm the same season after such treatment. I felt greatly indebted to G. M. Doolittle for the plan. You are not likely to have a repetition of your experience in the next forty years.

2. You can't tell at all by the looks of a cell whether it is meant for swarming or supersedure. But you can sometimes make a pretty good guess by noting conditions. A small number of cells is likely to mean superseding rather than swarming. If cells are present in a weak colony, or if the colony has not a large amount of brood, you may guess supersedure. But often conditions are such that it's an even thing which way you'd better guess.

3. It may happen if the queen was reared very early in the season. Such a queen is much the same as a last year's queen. I wish you would tell us if you have had any queen swarm that was reared in her own hive this season as late as June.

4. Quite a number of machines were talked about not so very long ago, and it looked hopeful that we would have a machine that would greatly shorten the work, but nothing has been said about them of late, and I know of nothing better than a sharp case-knife, and a lap-board, having on it a block about an inch thick and four inches square.

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## GENERAL ITEMS

### Bees a Pleasure.

My apiary is always a great pleasure to me, and this season the honey crop has been unusually good. The white clover bloomed in abundance, and my bees gathered much fine honey from it. All of my colonies are in good condition, and I have some nuclei which are very interesting.

I have always read the American Bee Journal with much interest and profit.

MRS. E. G. BRADFORD.

Newcastle Co., Dela., July 31.

### A Wet Season.

So much rain fell during basswood bloom that the bees worked lots of days in the rain; when it got too heavy for them they had to quit business, but part of the time they worked rain or shine. I had some idea why they did it, so I looked, and they did not have anything to live on, and that was why they had to push out in the rain. But at this date they are gathering some nectar. White clover is in second bloom, or took a second growth; for a while it looked as if it would not amount to much, but now it is looking

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very well. I am inclined to think the amount of nectar is small; some colonies will store enough to live on, some will store a small surplus, and some will hustle to live through without feeding.

It is warm to-day, as warm as it has been this summer; bees are lying out more now than ever. They seemed strong last spring, but it was too wet in June for them. CHAS. ELLIS.

Newton Co., Ind., July 27.

#### A Long Honey-Flow.

Our honey-flow comes all through May, June, July and part of August, from maple, willow, white clover, red clover, alsike clover and fireweed and some other weeds. The white clover furnishes honey all the season, as there are no hot days to kill it, and it does not slobber horses here like it does in the East. F. M. MCPHERSON.

Whatcom Co., Wash., Aug. 2.

#### Tough Season in Western Iowa.

This has been a tough season with us in western Iowa, not a pound of surplus taken off yet; last year at this time we had taken off 1,000 pounds, with  $\frac{1}{2}$  less colonies. Too much rain and cold wind when white clover bloomed; what little they got from basswood was needed and taken to keep house on. Rains came through the early part of sweet clover bloom, and now it is about done blooming, and very little surplus in sight. Hearts-ease and Spanish-needle may spring up on stubble-fields so we will get winter stores, but we will not glut the market with section honey.

I guess if we get to Denver we will have to go on foot, and that is hard on a cavalryman. C. E. MORRIS.

Carroll Co., Iowa, July 30.

#### "Prime Swarm" and "First Swarm"

On page 501, Mr. G. M. Doolittle says a prime swarm is often erroneously called a first swarm. Please tell us what is the difference between a prime swarm and a first swarm. INQUIRER.

[We respectfully refer the above to Mr. Doolittle himself for answer. Perhaps his "locality" makes the difference.—EDITOR].

#### Too Dry in Georgia.

Many of the readers of the Bee Journal up North, are having discouraging times on account of the wet weather, but down in Georgia we are having too little rain, and are getting very little honey; but we keep right on getting the experience.

Mr. Dobson and I have 12 colonies in the rear of our shop. They were largely black bees, but we have been introducing Italian queens since they were transferred from the box-hives. When we received 4 queens we took one colony and divided it and removed the queen, and at the proper time we liberated the queens, but they balled them and we caged them again two days longer. Then we looked for queen-cells and in one we found 18 cells which were destroyed. The next time we opened the hive there were 8 more, and the third time several more. Then we

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# THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

**GEORGE W. YORK & COMPANY**

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Prof. A. J. Cook, C. P. Dadant,  
R. C. Atkin, F. Greiner, Emma M. Wilson,  
A. Getaz, and others.

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To prevent the adulteration of honey.

To prosecute dishonest honey-dealers.

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NOTE.—One reader writes: "I have every reason to believe that it would be a very good idea for every bee-keeper to wear one [of the buttons] as it will cause people to ask questions about the busy bee, and many a conversation thus started would wind up with the sale of more or less honey; at any rate it would give the bee-keeper a superior opportunity to enlighten many a person in regard to honey and bees."

The picture shown herewith is a reproduction of a motto queen-button that we are furnishing to bee-keepers. It has a pin on the underside to fasten it.

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put the bees in one hive on new foundation, and the brood and comb in the other. This arrangement succeeded and all are doing well now.

We are feeding all these young colonies in order that they may fill the brood-combs and be ready to fill the supers when the fall honey-flow comes on. Is not this a good arrangement?

We have two colonies that are nearly all Italians, and can discover more diligence in them than among the blacks.

F. S. DUNKLEE.

Haralson Co., Ga., Aug. 5.

## Coollest Season on Record.

The season here was a great disappointment to most of the honey-producers. The most of those who were extracting got a short crop, while the comb-honey man got little or no honey.

With the exception of a few warm days this has been the coolest season and summer on record.

L. L. ANDREWS.

Riverside Co., Calif., Aug. 4.

## Did Well on Clover.

Bees are busy working on basswood; they did well on clover and raspberry. We have a little over 100 pounds per colony now, and basswood is not over yet.

E. E. COVEYOU.

Emmet Co., Mich., July 29.

## Reading the Bee Journal Pays.

I am satisfied the American Bee Journal has paid me many dollars in the production of honey this year. I have 18 colonies of bees and the most of them have produced 100 pounds of comb honey to the colony, this season, while my neighbors' bees have made a bare living. I attribute this wholly to the management, as I have learned many valuable lessons from the American Bee Journal that would have taken years of experiment.

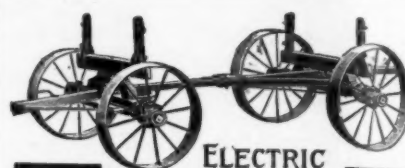
W. P. BROWNING.

Barry Co., Mo., Aug. 5.

## Worker Foundation in Sections.

I notice on page 491 something on comb honey and excluders. I have never been troubled much with the queen going up in supers. I use no honey-board of any kind. Although I have a lot of zinc ones I cannot call to mind that I ever had any drone-cells in sections filled with brood. In taking honey a short time ago I noticed one super that the bees had not gone out of, (I use escape-boards); it was full of bees, and they were cross. I smoked them and opened the super, and as I took out section by section I found drone-comb, and instead of capped honey a drone in every cell, just ready to come out. Dr. Miller, in replying to above, says, "I use top and bottom starters of worker foundation, filling the section entirely full." He says "worker foundation." Is this not the same that all bee-keepers use for their sections?

Now suppose the Doctor does fill his sections full of worker foundation, would that prevent drone-comb? I seem to get that idea from the last lines of his remarks. He says, "Or unless the sections were so filled with worker-foundation that there was no chance for drone-comb above the su-



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per." Now, I don't put any foundation on the bottom of my sections, but put in 3 inches; that leaves a space below, and the bees fill the comb down to the bottom of the section.

If the Doctor has a worker foundation different from others will he please tell us about it?

J. W. C. GRAY.

Pratt Co., Ill., Aug. 2.

#### Hard Season on Bees.

I have 20 colonies of bees. This season has been a hard one on them. I had to feed some in June to keep them alive. They are doing better now, storing in the supers some.

FRED LOCKWOOD.

Greene Co., Wis., Aug. 6.

#### Expects to Go to Denver.

I expect to attend the Denver convention, and want to be one of the boys when I get there.

The honey season has been all I could ask for, up to Aug. 1, but since that time the bees have been almost idle.

I hope to see you and many of the boys at Denver.

E. DAVISON.

Finney Co., Kans., Aug. 4.

#### Not Much Honey.

We began the season with 6 colonies. The weather was not favorable in fruit-bloom; it rained the most of the time, and continued until basswood bloom, when the bees worked some in the supers. White clover is blossoming fairly well, where it had not been killed during the dry spell last year.

Our bees nearly all swarmed in one day, and all nice, prime swarms, and a few after-swarms.

Last year we had a fair crop by this time, but this year we have not much to show, unless we get a good honey-flow in the fall.

We have 14 colonies now. I like the American Bee Journal very much.

NICHOLAS KLEIN.

Blackhawk Co., Iowa, Aug. 4.

#### Not a Great Honey-Flow.

The honey-flow is nothing great here. It was too cold and wet in the spring, and now it is cold at night, so the flow is very meager. The basswood yielded only 3 or 4 days. There is lots of bloom but the flow is light.

I have 100 colonies now, but will not get a very large lot of honey.

F. E. KNAPP.

Wadena Co., Minn., Aug. 8.

#### Not An Encouraging Report.

The spring was so wet that our bees did nothing, hardly making a living, and they got the swarming-fever the worst I ever saw. They would come out and cluster for a few minutes, then go back to the parent colony, and lots of them would leave the new hive directly after being hived and go back to the parent colony.

I don't believe, out of 16 colonies, I will get enough honey for my own use. Up to the present time I have not received a pound of honey. Between my practice and the bees I have been jumping this summer.

There are quite a few here, who, like

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myself, keep bees in a small way, but none of them report any honey, so far. White clover is nearly gone. There may be some fall flow here, but we get the most of our honey from white clover. Every one here works for comb honey.

DR. W. H. ELLIS.

Calhoun Co., Iowa, July 31.

### Best Season for White Honey.

This has been the best season for white honey in this part of Wisconsin that we have had for a good many years. I have taken from one to three supers from all of my colonies that got down to business, and I think I took the fourth super from one or two.

There has been a perfect sea of bloom from white and alsike clover, and it yielded nectar well. Basswood also was rich with honey this season, though we haven't a great amount of that.

I have increased from 90 to 117 colonies, and for about two weeks had from a few up to 19 swarms daily; the 19 came out on Sunday, of course.

B. T. DAVENPORT.

Green Lake Co., Wis., Aug. 4.

### Poor Season for Honey.

This has been a very poor season for honey in this section of the country. I had 18 colonies, spring count, and have only about 100 pounds of comb honey, up to this time. There has been plenty of white clover bloom all summer, and there is plenty of bloom at this date, but there is no nectar in it—the bees do not notice it. Alsike clover failed to furnish any honey this season. I have sowed 3 bushels of buckwheat; it is in full bloom, and the bees are just having a real nice time from day-break until noon; the balance of the day they do not seem to work much. I expect some honey from buckwheat.

There are a few bees kept in box-hives in this neighborhood by farmers on the old plan—do nothing and get nothing. They grumble and say there is nothing in keeping bees. They will not take the American Bee Journal to learn anything about caring for and handling their bees, so there is no improvement or gain in their lives as bee-keepers. What little I have learned about bees and their keeping has been from the American Bee Journal.

H. C. KUYKENDALL.

Clark Co., Ill., Aug. 5.

### Honey-Plants of Australia.

No doubt you will be surprised to receive this letter from South Australia. Last September I subscribed for the American Bee Journal, as I had often heard of it, and I have received much valuable information from reading it.

I am a beginner in keeping bees, and have 60 colonies, which I think is a pretty good start.

Thinking it might interest some of your readers I send an account of the honey-plants in this part of the world. First of all, about August, the bees start to get pollen from wild flowers, and a little from almond and other early fruit-trees, which last until October, when the dandelion or cape-weed blooms very thickly on all farms. About two weeks later bees swarm, if the blue-gum follows; if it does not



they do not, as a rule, swarm that season.

Our main honey crop, which we get about every other year, first of all comes from blue-gum, then red-gum, which blooms from December until February and are the best honey-trees we have. About the first of April the peppermint or a sort of box-tree blooms, and lasts until June, and sets our bees right for winter; and if it does not rain too much we get between 3 and 4 60-pound cans per colony for the season.

I believe it would pay American and California bee-keepers to plant trees, as they stand forever. A. R. BELL.

South Australia, June 16.

### Robber-Bees Stinging.

Having noticed, incidentally, that Mr. Hasty has been more than willing to dignify (?) my writings in his characteristic way, I here tender him congratulations, although I would not by any means have my friend get a "bloated" conception of my worth to the bee-keeping world.

That there were in the great army of honey-producers a man, woman, or child, who would assert that the statement that robber-bees sting the defenders of the hive they are going to rob, was assumption, rank with the mildew of centuries past, I could not believe until I read it in his "comments" in a recent issue of the Bee Journal.

Now I wish to say to the readers of this paper, that if any statement of mine herein recorded will not stand the crucial test of modern practice I want the hammer of truth to fall squarely upon it. But to this practical apiarist and critic for the columns of the American Bee Journal, I would suggest the fairness there would be in first giving the matter an impartial test before "passing it up" as mere fiction. Let him effect a genuine case of robbing on the part of Italian bees, and then concentrate these forces suddenly on a strong colony of pure blacks, and record the results. If he doesn't find that the robbing bees sting with effect when they meet with determined opposition, I'll agree to "eat my old hat" for the edification of Mr. Hasty.

W. W. MCNEAL.

Cook Co., Ill., Aug. 1.

CLOSE SATURDAYS AT 1 P.M.—Our customers and friends will kindly remember that beginning with July 1, for three months we close our office and bee-supply store at 1 p.m. on Saturdays. This is our usual custom. Nearly all other firms here begin the Saturday afternoon closing with May 1st, but we keep open two months later on account of the local bee-keepers who find it more convenient to call Saturday afternoons for bee-supplies.



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Mail sample, and state style of package and price delivered in Chicago.

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34Atf Mention the American Bee Journal.

### QUEENS—Try Our Stock.

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Your queens are fully up to standard. The honey queen that you sent my brother takes the lead. She had a roving colony when put up for winter. The golden can be handled without smoke or veil.

Very truly yours, JOHN THOEMING.

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Select tested, \$2.00. Breeders, \$5.00 each. 2-frame Nucleus with Untested Queen, \$2.25 each; 3-frame Nucleus with Untested Queen, \$3.00 each; 6 for \$2.75 each.

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## HONEY AND BEESWAX

### MARKET QUOTATIONS.

CHICAGO, Aug. 11.—Some comb honey produced in 1902 is now on sale. Fancy brings 15c; anything off in appearance or quality sells at 13@14c for white; amber grades, 2 and 3 cents per pound less. Extracted is selling at 6@7c for white; light amber, 5@6c; dark, 5@5½c. There is a fair demand for all grades and kinds. Beeswax steady at 30c. R. A. BURNETT & Co.

KANSAS CITY, Aug. 2.—Receipts of comb honey increasing; fairly good demand. New fancy white, 14@15c; No. 1, 13@14c; amber, 12@13c. Extracted, white, 6c; amber, 5@5½c. Beeswax, 22@25c. C. C. CLEMONS & Co.

CINCINNATI, July 26.—Considerable stock of 1901 crop fancy comb on the market and sells at 14@15c; there is a call for new comb honey, as yet none on the market; this market demands fancy comb; all other grades discourages trade. Extracted is in fair demand at 5½@6c for amber and 7@8c for clover. Beeswax, 28@30c. THE FRED W. MUTH CO.

ALBANY, N. Y., Aug. 1.—We are having some calls for new comb honey, but no receipts to speak of yet. No price established yet, but think can get 15@16c for good white comb. Extracted, demand light.

The crop of honey near here is light, owing to so many colonies of bees having been destroyed. H. R. WRIGHT.

NEW YORK, Aug. 11.—New crop comb honey from New York and Pennsylvania is beginning to arrive in limited quantities. There is a good demand for fancy white at 14c, and No. 1 at 13c, and exceptionally fine lots will possibly bring a little more. Lower grades quiet at from 10@12c. As to extracted honey, fancy grades are in good demand at from 6@6½c for white, and 5@5½c for light amber. Southern in barrels and half-barrels quiet at from 47½@60c per gallon, according to quality. Beeswax dull at from 27@28c. HILDRETH & SORLEKEN.

CINCINNATI, Aug. 2.—Some small lots of new comb honey have been coming in, but as the weather is so warm there is very little demand. That sold to stores brought 15c for fancy.

The market for extracted was more lively, brings as follows: Amber, 5@5½c; alfalfa water white, 6@6½c; and white clover, 7@7½c. Beeswax, 30c cash. C. H. W. WEBER.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 23.—White comb, 10@12½ cents; amber, 7@10c; dark, 6@7 cents. Extracted, white, 5@—; light amber, 4@—; amber, 4@—; Beeswax, good to choice, light, 27@29c; dark, 25@26c.

There are moderate quantities arriving, with asking figures in the main above the views of wholesale operators. Business doing at present in this center is principally of a small jobbing or retail character, and in this way transfers are being made at an advance on any figures which would be warranted as quotations based on values for round lots.

## WANTED!

Honey and Beeswax. Mail sample and state price delivered Cincinnati. C. H. W. WEBER, 2146-2148 Central Ave., CINCINNATI, OHIO.

21Atf Mention the American Bee Journal.

WE can place a few cars of COMB AND EXTRACTED HONEY. Will be glad to correspond with parties having some to offer. We also solicit local consignments.

C. C. CLEMONS & CO.,  
29A9t 306 Grand Ave., KANSAS CITY, MO.

**WANTED** WHITE CLOVER EXTRACTED HONEY! Send sample and best price delivered here; also Fancy Comb wanted in no drip cases.

THE FRED W. MUTH CO.  
32Atf Front and Walnut, CINCINNATI, OHIO.

## Wanted Comb and Extracted Honey!

State price, kind and quantity.  
R. A. BURNETT & CO., 199 S. Water St., CHICAGO  
33Atf Please mention the Bee Journal.

**WANTED** White Clover COMB and EXTRACTED HONEY from New York State. Send sample of extracted, price and grade of comb. W. H. YENNEY,  
32A3t Glassboro, N. J.  
Please mention Bee Journal when writing.

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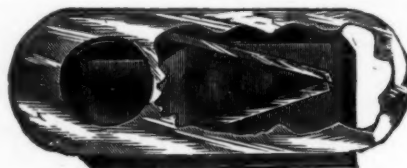
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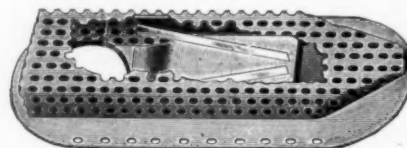


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